



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATE: March 12, 2019

TO: Honorable Kathleen Taylor, Chair of the Senate Committee on Workforce

FROM: Aaron Knott, Legislative Director

SUBJECT: SB 272 - Including Assistant Attorneys General among strike prohibited employees

This testimony is offered by the Attorney General in support of SB 272.

Assistant Attorneys General (AAGs) provide a range of services essential to multiple aspects of legal service delivery to public bodies. Within the criminal justice system, AAGs provide time sensitive prosecutorial assistance on cases among the most serious within our system, frequently including complex financial crimes, elder abuse and aggravated murder. AAGs are also responsible for delivering over a million dollars a day to Oregon families via our child support system. AAGs provide crucial services throughout our system of juvenile dependency, working with county level partners and DHS to resolve extremely time sensitive issues involving Oregon's most vulnerable youth.

A disruption to any of these services caused by a labor stoppage would be immediate, profound and widespread, causing the delay of essential services to Oregonians in need of support.

SB 272 recognizes the core public safety functions of the Oregon Department of Justice by bringing them into alignment with deputy district attorneys, firefighters, police officers and other front-line public safety personnel by prohibiting Assistant Attorneys General from striking. This allows for the fair resolution of labor disputes without undue hazard to the basic framework of our system of public safety.

SB 272 is largely a codification of existing practices at the Oregon Department of Justice, formalizing an existing framework already fairly negotiated through collective bargaining. The Attorney General commends our partners in labor for working hand in hand with us to reach this joint recommendation.

The Attorney General encourages the passage of SB 272.

Contact: Aaron Knott, Legislative Director, aaron.d.knott@doj.state.or.us.